THE REPORTER

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Senate Rejected C. O. Amendment

During the Senate debate on the Selective Service Act of 1948 (S. 2655), Senator Wayne Morse (R-Ore.) introduced an amendment which would establish a Presidential-appointed three-man civilian commission with authority to classify, to assign to noncombatant and civilian service or to defer conscientious objectors. The amendment gained the support of 22 Senators but was defeated by the opposition votes of 48 Senators.

In its final form as passed by Congress on June 19 the draft carried the House provision deferring conscientious objectors. The Senate provision was rejected in the Conference Committee.

Instead of leaving the problem of conscientious objectors within the Selective Service System Senator Morse proposed "A National Commission on Conscientious Objcetors to be composed of three or more civilians to be appointed by the President shall prescribe the conditions under which persons claiming exemption under this subsection shall (a) be inducted into the armed forces; (b) be assigned to noncombatant service; (c) be assigned to special service of national importance with governmental or approved private agencies operating in the public good at home or abroad; or, (d) be deferred."

The amendment further proposed that the Commission rule on appeals of conscientious objectors from the decisions of state appeal boards.

The proposal of Sen. Morse was based on the recommendation of the Attorney General in his Annual Report for 1944. The Report was made by Francis Biddle who at that time was the Attorney General. In calling attention to the "administrative, psychological, and ethical problems of conscientious objectors which have not yet been fully solved," the report concluded "The Congress may well consider the desirability of meeting these complexities by establishing a board to deal especially with conscientious objectors, having final discretion with respect to their proper individual classifications as well as their prompt assignment to suitable and useful work."

The attitude and purpose of Sen. Morse was clarified in his opening remarks when he stated ". . . . I am at a loss to understand the the psychology of conscientious objectors. They perplex me . . . But the fact that I am perplexed about it, that I cannot share their point of view, and that I am at a loss to understand how they reach the conclusions they reach in regard to military service, does not justify my advocating a procedure which in any way limits or defeats their right."

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Physical Exam

Some conscientious objectors have received notices from their local boards to appear for an armed forces physical examination. In some cases the local board had failed to furnish the registrant with the Special Form for Conscientious Objectors (SSS Form No. 150) which he had requested on the Classification Questionnaire.

Conscientious objectors can take the armed forces physical examination without endangering their conscientious objections. Taking the armed forces physical examination is not equivalent to accepting a I-A classification.

Any conscientious objector who receives a classification in Class I-A and a notice to take an armed forces physical examination may submit to the examination but should not fail to request an appearance before his local board or an appeal of his classification within ten days from the date of mailing of the Notice of Classification.

Brethren Enlarge Volunteer Service

Acting upon the request of its young people, the Church of the Brethren at its annual meeting in June at Colorado Springs, Colorado, decided to enlarge its Volunteer Service Program. The work was assigned by the General Brotherhood Board of the Church of the Brethren to the Brethren Service Commission in cooperation with the National Youth Cabinet.

Plans were quickly developed and the first group of Volunteers is now in training at New Windsor, Maryland.

Volunteers sign the following commitment on the Enrollment Card: "I hereby volunteer one year of service under the supervision of the Brethren Service Commission, General Brotherhood Board, Church of the Brethren. I understand this service does not exempt or defer me from or is in any way connected with the present draft. This commitment is made in order to give witness of my Christian love and concern for our war-torn world and to meet human need in whatever manner or place my service may best be utilized."

The term of service is for one year or more of continuous work. There are no vacations. Anyone 18 years of age or older who can qualify is eligible.

Volunteers who are unable to provide their own maintenance as well as give their service will receive transportation and maintenance (food, housing, major and emergency medical care) and a personal cash allowance of $10.00 per month.

All accepted applicants start their year of service at the Brethren Relief Center, New Windsor, Maryland. There they

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New Regulation Affects C. O.'s

Under a new Selective Service regulation local boards are required to make a determination on the conscientious objections of a registrant opposed to noncombatant service before considering his eligibility for any other classification except Class V-A (over age) or Class IV-F (unfitness).

The regulation requires that the local board classify each registrant in the lowest classification for which he is eligible. Class I-A is considered the highest class and Class V-A is considered the lowest class. Accordingly, the order of classifications for which each registrant shall be considered is: V-A, IV-F, *IV-E*, IV-D, IV-C, IV-B, IV-A, III-A, II-C, II-A, I-D, I-C, I-A-O, I-A.

This procedure reverses the wartime practice of putting every man in I-A first and then examining his fitness for service or his claim for dependency or occupational deferment.

The reason given for the change is that Selective Service does not want a lot of potential IV-F's or other deferable men in Class I-A; rather it wants only men who have been examined and found clearly available for service in I-A.

This regulation is of vital importance to conscientious objectors. *If a local board classifies a conscientious objector who is opposed to noncombatant service in any classification above Class IV-E, it means that his conscientious objections have been denied. If he fails to appeal within ten days from any classification above IV-E he has forfeited his legal right to classification in Class IV-E.*

Some farmers or married men may accept a II-C or III-A thinking they can get a IV-E later if farm and dependency deferments are abolished. However, a local board is *not required* to reconsider the conscientious objections of a registrant classified above IV-E who accepted any classification above IV-E. Likewise a registrant waives his legal right to consideration for classification in IV-E by the appeal board if he fails to appeal within ten days from any classification above IV-E. Thus, conscientious objectors who are farmers or married men and who accept a II-C or III-A classification have no legal right to consideration for future classification in IV-E.

If the present deferment for conscientious objectors should be changed (this requires an Act of Congress) so as to require some kind of service farmers and men with dependents in Class IV-E would be entitled to consideration for II-C and III-A classifications.

A registrant's classification is always subject to review. Whenever a registrant is reclassified he will be placed in

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NATIONAL SERVICE BOARD for RELIGIOUS OBJECTORS

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Between the Drafts

During the 15-month interval between the expiration of the 1940 Act on March 31, 1947, and the passage of the new draft on June 19, 1948 the National Service Board maintained a small staff for clearing out matters remaining from the administration of Civilian Public Service and to seek broad provisions for conscientious objectors in legislation for Universal Military Training or Selective Service.

Work on matters connected with Civilian Public Service included such things as closing out the farm accounts of assignees employed by farmers; obtaining allowances for medical expenses of assignees; return of property used in the administration of CPS camps; distribution of funds received from church groups for the cost of their men in camps operated by the Brethren, Friends and Mennonites. The staff also processed the CPS files for removal to the Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

The NSB assisted in the effort to obtain a Congressional appropriation for international relief of the wages of CPS assignees which were formerly held in a special fund in the United States Treasury but which were put into the general receipts of the Treasury on March 7, 1947. This story is related elsewhere in this issue.

During this period there were many inquiries mainly from students and research workers concerning the operation of CPS camps and the problems of conscientious objectors. Assistance was furnished to the Brethren Service Commission and the Mennonite Central Committee for the preparation of their respective histories of CPS. The Brethren CPS History, "Pathways to Peace" by Leslie Eisen is already in print. The Mennonite CPS History written by Melvin Gingerich, is now on the presses and is expected to be published by the end of the year.

Information regarding the administration of Civilian Public Service and the problems of conscientious objectors was furnished to the House and Senate Armed Services Committees by the National Service Board. When legislation for Universal Military Training and Selective Service was before the Committees, the National Service Board testified in favor of a broad definition of conscientious objection; civilian control and administration; and wages for conscientious objectors employed by the government and public agencies or by private employers.

The Universal Military Training Bill (H. R. 4278) passed by the House Armed Services Committee, defined conscientious objection as "by reason of religious training or belief or humanitarian convictions." Effort was made to have this same definition incorporated in the legislation for Selective Service but both the House and Senate Armed Services Committee were unwilling to change the narrower definition which appeared in the original administration bill.

During consideration of Selective Service legislation it was learned that some of the Committee members wanted the restricted definition because they feared that Communists or pro-Russia sympathizers would take advantage of this provision to escape military service in a possible war with Russia.

Non-Registrant Sentenced

Ralph E. Cook, a 19 year old predivinity student from Portland, Maine, became the first Selective Service violator to be sentenced for refusing to register for the draft.

Cook, who is a sophomore at Earlam College, Richmond, Indiana, pleaded guilty. He is the son of Rev. Lyndley J. Cook, former pastor of a Friends Church in Portland and now Field Director of the Maine Council of Churches.

Federal Judge, John D. Clifford, Jr., who sentenced Cook to prison for two years on September 29 said that it was "quite irrelevant" that Cook, as a preministerial student would have been exempt had he registered.

Caleb Foote, executive secretary of the Central Committee of Conscientious Objectors reported on October 7 that he had direct information on approximately 70 persons within the draft age who had refused to register.

Frozen Fund

A Congressional authorization for an appropriation of funds for international relief equal in amount to the wages earned by Civilian Public Service assignees and held in a special account in the United States Treasury during the war, failed to pass after Senator Vandenberg (R.-Mich.) objected.

The House Armed Services Committee held hearings on the Cole Bill (H. R. 1938) and gave a very favorable report. The Cole Bill authorized an appropriation equal to the amount of wages earned by assignees for expenditure by the International Children's Emergency Fund. This bill passed the House without a dissenting vote.

In the Senate Armed Services Committee the same bill was introduced by Senator Saltonstall. Hearings were held and the Armed Services Committee recommended the passage of the bill in a favorable report. When the bill came up on the Unanimous Consent Calendar, Senator Vandenberg registered an objection. An effort was made to find out the basis of Vandenberg's objection and reach an understanding. Vandenberg felt that the purpose of the bill was a good one but that since the Children's Fund had a request for an appropriation in the general appropriations bill, it would be unwise administratively to request a separate appropriation of money to the Children's Fund.

The Saltonstall Bill came up a second time on the Consent Calendar and again an objection was registered by Senator Vandenberg. Following this Senator Saltonstall moved that the bill be recommitted to the Armed Services Committee and further work was done with Senator Vandenberg to obtain his approval. Other projects of an international relief character to which the money could be appropriated were considered but it was felt that the best hope lay in attempting to obtain the approval of the appropriation for expenditure by the Children's Fund.

The three historic peace church agencies, the American Friends Service Committee, the Brethren Service Commission and the Mennonite Central Committee reached an agreement with the Children's Fund whereby the supplies which would be purchased with the money made available by the appropriation would be distributed by these agencies in the countries in which the Children's Fund operated. The amount of money in the so-called "Frozen Fund" which would be made available amounted to $1,247,018.15.

As the session drew to a close it became apparent that Senator Saltonstall was reluctant to have the bill reconsidered by the Committee. He said that he wanted assurance of complete agreement on the bill between Senator Vandenberg, the State Department and the United States Treasury. When all of this was eventually obtained Senator Saltonstall advised that it was too late in the session to report out a bill on this matter requiring an appropriation because of the economy axe treatment which ERP and other world relief measures were receiving by the Senate. The bill therefore died in the unfinished business of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Plans are again being considered by the National Service Board and other interested groups for introducing with the hope of final enactment, a measure for making the wages of CPS assignees available for international relief. The efforts to have these funds used in this manner were made in accordance with the wish of the CPS assignees who earned the money as revealed in a poll conducted by THE REPORTER during the war.

C. O. Lawyer

The National Service Board for Religious Objectors wants to employ an attorney with pacifist convictions to provide legal advice to conscientious objectors and to handle special problems under legislation, classification, appeals and parole. Either a practicing attorney or a law school graduate is desired. Qualified persons may apply directly to the National Service Board. The NSB would be grateful if interested persons who know such lawyers would call ther attention to this position or refer their names and qualifications to the NSB.

N. S. B. Continues

Following the passage of the Selective Service Act of 1948 by Congress on June 10, members of the Consultative Council of the National Service Board for Religious Objectors and other interested persons held a meeting on June 29 in Washington, D. C. to consider the kind of services needed by conscientious objectors and the means for providing these services.

Participants in the conference were divided on the extent, purpose and methods of providing services to conscientious objectors. Some of the persons present felt that while the National Service Board was already functioning it could not represent them or all conscientious objectors adequately. The hope that a single new organization could serve all conscientious objector groups was also felt to be impossible. Thinking shifted to the formation of an additional organization which has since emerged as the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors with offices in Philadelphia.

Representatives of the Mennonite Central Committee and the Brethren Service Commission stated their need for a Washington service organization to provide for their own conscientious objectors and expressed their intention to continue the NSB cooperatively for themselves and others and invited the Consultative Council members to continue their relationship and participation.

Under the present organization of the NSB the Mennonites and the Brethren share the net expense of the office. Regular and occasional contributions come from other church groups. Orie O. Miller, Executive Secretary of the Mennonite Central Committee is Acting Chairman of the Board of Directors. It is planned to enlarge the Board of Directors and to revise the letter head with the names of the organizations which are members of the Consultative Council.

The type of service which the National Service Board expects to render is described in a letter from the Executive Secretary mailed to members of the Consultative Council and other persons. The letter states "The National Service Board will continue to operate much as it did during the war with the exception that there will not be an alternative service program. . . It will furnish information on registration, classification, appeals, regulations, and court decisions on conscientious objectors. . . . Assistance will be furnished to persons making appeals to the appeal board or to the President."

The NSB will attempt to handle problems of conscientious objectors through administrative procedures and agencies such as Selective Service, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Army, and the Office of the President and to seek provisions for conscientious objectors in any Congressional action affecting them. It does not plan to represent individuals in court or to finance litigation. It will refer individual objectors to lawyers who handle such cases and to any organizations furnishing legal counsel for court trials.

The jurisdictional line between the National Service Board and the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors appears to be drawn on the differences in attitude towards the draft. The NSB will assist groups or individuals who want recognition of their conscientious objections under the law through administrative procedures and legislative action.

The CCCO will assist objectors who refuse to cooperate with the law, who do not qualify as conscientious objectors under the law and who refuse to cooperate under certain existing and prevailing practices. The CCCO has announced a bail fund plan whereby it will help arrested violators obtain bail at a rate of 2% which is paid by the individuals.

Both organizations plan to clear and exchange information and refer cases so as to keep duplication at a minimum.

Forty-one persons attended the conference representing fourteen churches and seven peace and related organizations.

C. O. Aliens

Aliens who are conscientious objectors can register their conscientious objections and request classification in Class IV-E without losing their rights to apply for citizenship in the United States.

Under the Selective Service Act of 1948 "any citizen of a foreign country, *who is not deferred from training and service under the provisions of this title* (other than this subsection), shall be relieved from liability for training and service under this title, if, prior to his induction into the armed forces he has made application to be relieved from such liability . . . but any person who makes such application shall thereafter be debarred from becomming a citizen of the United States."

Aliens who are classified as conscientious objectors will not be debarred from becoming a United States Citizen under this law.

The procedure for obtaining classification as a conscientious objector is the same for an alien as for a ciitzen.

Information for C. O.'s

The National Service Board has prepared and printed three folders of information concerning the provisions for and the regulations governing conscientious objectors under the draft which are available upon request.

The first folder, "*The Conscientious Objector Under The Selective Service Act of* 1948," dated July 22, quotes the text of the law concerning conscientious objectors and contains information concerning the procedures for filling out the Classification Questionnaire (SSS Form No. 100) and the Special Form for Conscientious Objectors (SSS Form No. 150).

The second folder, "*Additional Information of Interest to Conscientious Objectors,*" dated August 13, contains information on registration and requrements for answering the Classification Questionnaire.

The third folder, "*Classification and Appeal Regulations Under the Selective Service Act of* 1948 *Affecting Conscientious Objectors,*" dated September 1, lists the classifications provided under the draft and the requirements for classification in each class and the regulations concerning the right of the registrant to appear before the local board and appeal his classification.

AMENDMENT (from page 1)

Morse continued ". . . we cannot have religious freedom under the Constitution of the United States, and then in practice deny it, even by way of limiting religious freedom by the procedure we adapt and impose upon those who seek to exercise their full religious freedom under the Constitution. I am satisfied that the procedure covering conscientious objectors which has been incorporated in the bill is not the fairest procedure we can or should devise."

Sen. Morse argued that he was defending the constitutional principle of having civil and civilian rights "determined not by men in the military or draft boards administering a military draft act, but by representatives of a civilian board separate and distinct from a board administering a military act." The problem of conscientious objectors he said, "has no connection whatever with military jurisdiction."

Morse said that the heads of the armed services are not opposed to his amendment. "In fact," he said, "most of them would tell Senators, off the record, that they would welcome being relieved of this very troublesome problem."

The Canadian and British system of handling conscientious objectors was a guide to Sen. Morse in the preparation of his amendment. Morse said that the civilian approach to the handling of conscientious objectors under his amendment was similar to the British procedure.

Senator Chan Gurney (R-S. Dak.), Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, opposed the amendment stating "our committee believes that the way the conscientious objectors were taken care of during the war worked out very well, generally, with the full approval of the country." The procedure his committee adopted he said, follows with few technical changes, the wartime draft.

Gurney claimed that the Commission created by the amendment would "to a marked extent intervene in the functions performed by the local boards." Gurney denied that conscientious objectors would be "under the thumb of the military" under his bill.

Gurney also criticized the amendment because the time remaining in the session was too short to obtain an appropriation to finance the Commission. To this argument Morse replied that no special appropriation was needed since the amendment was part and parcel of the draft law and the appropriation covering the draft law would cover the

(*Continued on page* 4)

Central Committee For C. O.'s

An organization to assist non-registrants has been formed under the name of the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors with an office at 2006 Walnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

The Executive Secretary of the new agency is Caleb Foote, a conscientious objector who was imprisoned in World War II and a former F. O. R. secretary of northern California.

A release from the CCCO states that the agency "will arrange to the best of its ability: counselling and advice about prosecution under the Act; the service of competent counsel wherever possible, though many men will prefer to handle their own cases in court; help in getting a man out on bail in the event of his arrest."

Members of the organizing committee of the CCCO are: Ray Newton, Chairman; Abe Kaufman, A. J. Muste, Robert Ludlow, Elizabeth Rhoads, Albon Mann, Mildred Olmstead, Caleb Foote.

BRETHREN (from page 1)

spend half-time working in the relief program and half-time in training courses. This phase of the service lasts for three months.

The training program consists of courses in *Learning to Live Together; World Conditions; Love, Courtship and Marriage; Personal Disciplines; Background and Program of B. S. C.; Basis for Pacifism; History and Program of the Church of the Brethren; What the New Testament Teaches; Personal Devotional Life; Philosophy of Choosing a Vocation;* and *Technique of Spreading a Minority View Point.* In addition, there are special short courses and lectures by visiting faculty, and members of the staff of the Church of the Brethren.

At the close of the training period, assignments will be made to various projects in the United States and abroad. Some volunteers will go to Europe, Puerto Rico, and Mexico in relief and rehabilitation work. Others will be assigned to projects creating good-will between races and classes in the United States. The basic requirements of the projects are their contribution to human need and the promotion of peace. Projects are under investigaton among negroes in the deep south, Indians in the South West, migrant labor, and other needy groups. There will be a variety of community improvements, recreational, and educational projects.

This program is an enlargement of the Volunteer Service Program carried on by the Church of the Brethren in the past. It looks forward to a large increase in personnel as well as new areas of service.

While the program is intended primarily for members of the Church of the Brethren, it is open to other religious groups. Up to 25 per cent of the Volunteers will be accepted outside of the Brethren Church.

Ora Huston, who was loaned to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, has returned to the Brethren Service Commission, and will have charge of the enlarged Volunteer Service Program.

SSS State Directors

On August 2 the National Headquarters of Selective Service released the announcement of the appointment of the last of the State Directors for the 48 states, the District of Columbia, New York City, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Shown below is the composition of the State Directors by their military and civilian rank:

Military		49
Major General	4	
Brigadier General	19	
Colonel	20	
Lt. Colonel	5	
Major	1	
Civilian		5
Total		54

AMENDMENT (from page 3)

administration of his procedure for handling conscientious objectors.

The amendment lost by a vote of 48-22. Later in the Conference Committee the provision in the House Bill deferring conscientious objectors was adopted and remained a part of the final bill which was passed on the last day of the session.

The following Senators voted in favor of the amendment to establish a National Commission for Conscientious Objectors:

George D. Aiken (R-Vt.)
C. Douglass Buck (R-Del.)
Hugh Butler (R-Nebr.)
Harry Flood Byrd (D-Va.)
Harry P. Cain (R-Wash.)
Homer E. Capehart (R-Ind.)
Henry C. Dworshak (R-Idaho)
Ralph E. Flanders (R-Vt.)
Irving M. Ives (R-N. Y.)
Harley M. Kilgore (D-W. Va.)
William Langer (R-N. Dak.)
Eugene D. Millikin (R-Colo.)
E. H. Moore (R-Okla.)
Wayne Morse (R-Ore.)
James E. Murray (D-Mont.)
A. Willis Robertson (D-Va.)
John J. Sparkman (D-Ala.)
Robert A. Taft (R-Ohio)
Elbert D. Thomas (D-Utah)
Arthur V. Watkins (R-Utah)
Kenneth S. Wherry (R-Nebr.)
Alexander Wiley (R-Wis.)

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Local Committees Aid C. O.'s

The National Service Board desires to furnish information to counsellors and local committees which are set up to assist conscientious objectors. Such persons or organizations may be placed on the mailing list to receive releases of information. The subscription to THE REPORTER is $1.00 per year. This issue of THE REPORTER renews this publication which was not published after September, 1947.

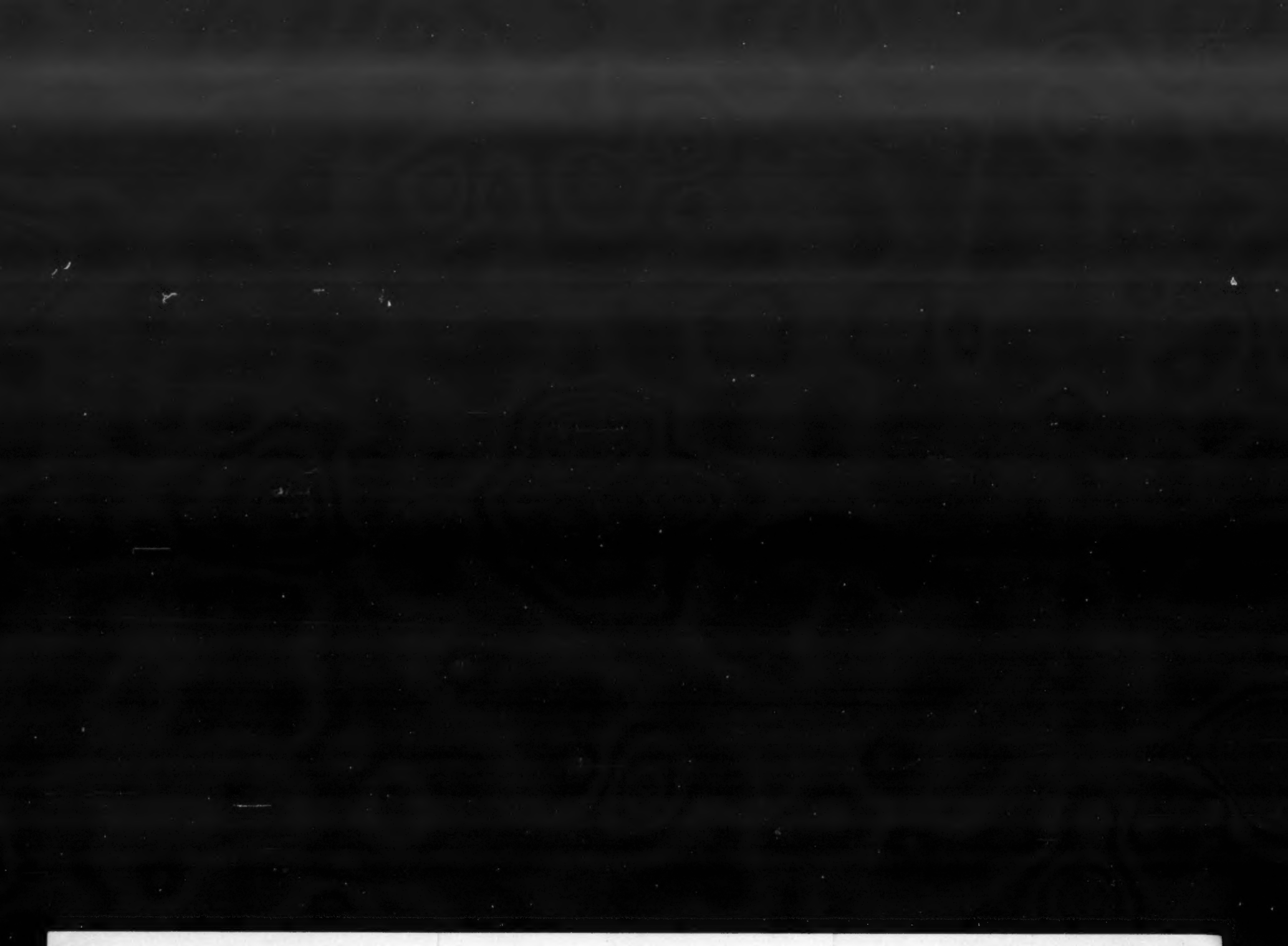
Interested persons in the State of Washington have organized a statewide Committee for Conscientious Objectors of ministers, ex-prison and ex-CPS conscientious objectors and other interested persons. The Committee intends to assist conscientious objectors who register under the law and want their objections recognized or who refuse to register and need legal counsel.

From the information available the Washington Committee for Conscientious Objectors is the first such committee organized on a state-wide basis.

REGULATIONS (from page 1)

a class nearer the inductible categories (I-A and I-A-O) unless there are new circumstances in his situation which entitle him to consideration for a lower class.

A registrant classified in II-C who acquires a dependent would have a new condition which would entitle him to consideration in III-A, a lower classificaton; otherwise the direction of classification is upward towards I-A.

Conscientious objectors who are ministers or ministerial students must decide whether they want IV-E or IV-D. Under the present regulation they have no legal right to consideration in Class IV-E if they accept a IV-D. Here again should the present deferment for conscientious objectors be changed by law ministers and ministerial students in IV-E would be entitled to consideration in IV-D, the next highest class.

Under the present regulation, therefore, a conscientious objector opposed to noncombatant service who wants recognition of his conscientious objections must exhaust all of his procedural rights of appeal for getting a IV-E classification if he is otherwise classified.